

THE TALBOTTON NEW ERA

Serving the people of Talbot County since 1879

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Submitted Photographs

IMPRESSIVE SHOWING BY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FBLA - Students from Central High School delivered an impressive showing at the 2026 Georgia FBLA Region Leadership Conference, held Tuesday, January 13, 2026, earning top placements, state qualifications, and notable statewide rankings across multiple competitive testing events. In the top photograph are all the participants. In the bottom photographs left to right are: first place winner Amiyah Harris, third place winner Ture Desue and Ava Whitmore who finished seventh.

Father's Day Celebrated Around the World

Submitted to *NEW ERA*

Students from Central High School delivered an impressive showing at the 2026 Georgia FBLA Region Leadership Conference, held Tuesday, January 13, 2026, earning top placements, state qualifications, and notable statewide rankings across multiple competitive testing events.

Under the leadership of FBLA Chapter Advisor Mr. Ricardo Lawrence, students demonstrated strong preparation, professionalism, and resilience while competing against peers from across the region and state. The chapter's results reflect a continued commitment to leadership development, business knowledge, and career readiness.

Leading the chapter's success was Amiyah Harris, who earned a 1st-place regional finish in Future Business Leader Event. Her score placed her first among competitors and qualified her for the State Leadership Conference (SLC). Harris also achieved an impressive 10th-place ranking out of 92 competitors statewide, making her one of Central High's top-performing students.

True Desue delivered one of the chapter's strongest

technical performances, placing 3rd in Intro to Information Technology Event and qualifying for SLC. Her top-three regional finish highlights advanced technical proficiency and focused preparation. Ava Whittemore also qualified for SLC in Intro to Information Technology, placing 7th in a highly competitive field.

While narrowly missing state qualification, Richard Kirk delivered a performance worthy of special recognition in Customer Service. Kirk placed 11th at the regional level and earned a statewide ranking of 77th out of 209 competitors, a strong result that fell just short of the qualification cutoff. His performance reflects high competency and positions him as a strong contender for future competitions.

Annabella Edwards narrowly missed SLC qualification in Customer Service, placing 12th in a highly competitive field. Edwards fur-

ther represented Central High in Future Business Leader, where she placed 5th, demonstrating versatility and a willingness to compete across multiple events.

Additional students also represented the chapter with distinction. Carmen Cheney competed in Intro to Information Technology, and James Whittemore competed in the Personal Finance event, both gaining valuable competitive experience.

Overall, Central High's performance at the Region Leadership Conference highlights the impact of dedicated student effort and effective chapter leadership. With multiple SLC qualifiers, strong statewide rankings, and continued growth, the FBLA chapter continues to build momentum toward excellence. Qualified students will advance to compete at the Georgia FBLA State Leadership Conference in Atlanta this March, where they will represent Central High against top competitors from across the state.



File Photo

MARTIN LUTHER KING EVENT A SUCCESS - An event to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was held in Talbotton this past Saturday. The event was a tremendous success. The event began with a march in honor of King and after the march there was an event with speeches and more. The turnout for the event was tremendous.

Porter Transitioning into Emeritus Role

National Search Underway for New GTLN Executive Director

From Staff Reports

The Georgia Trust for Local News was created to prevent news deserts and stimulate creative solutions to build sustainable journalism in Middle Georgia.

Those aims have been met, with the Georgia Trust now boasting a portfolio of 20 community titles, ranging from some of the state's oldest newspapers to the start-up The Macon Melody.

The National Trust for Local News's successful launch of the Georgia Trust wouldn't have been possible without DuBose Porter, a 40-year veteran of newspaper publishing who has served as executive director since the National Trust for Local News established the state subsidiary in 2024. Having set the Georgia Trust on a path for enduring success, Porter will retire as executive director on Feb. 2 and take on a publisher emeritus role focused on fundraising, partnerships and acquisitions.

With Porter's transition, the National Trust for Local News has launched a nationwide search for his successor. This new executive director will be charged with leading and advancing the Georgia Trust's general operations and business partnerships, while driving editorial, audience and advertising strategy; product innovation; and revenue growth. Danyale Starley, currently serving as controller for the Georgia Trust, will step into the role of interim executive director



DUBOSE PORTER

beginning Feb. 2 and until a new leader is selected.

"This transition reflects the widening scope of both our statewide mission and our ambitions for transformational reach," said Tom Wiley, CEO of the National Trust for Local News. "Our next stage of growth at the Georgia Trust requires an energized operational leader paired with a dedicated statewide ambassador who can deepen philanthropic investment and cultivate new market opportunities. We're pleased DuBose Porter, a longtime leading force in the community, will remain with us as we transition the Georgia Trust to its new phase of development and innovation."

A longtime news publisher and public servant, Porter serves on the board of directors for the Georgia Press Association, of which he's past president, and the Georgia First Amendment Foundation. He brought his deep knowledge of the strengths and challenges facing rural newspapers to his work with the Georgia Trust

as he led the organization through its founding years.

Porter's history in community newspapers runs deep. He and Griffin Lovett first purchased The Courier Herald in his native Dublin in 1987.

Between 1998 and 2004, Porter and Lovett purchased several neighboring weeklies, making The Courier Herald the flagship of their publishing company. Following another expansion between 2021 and 2023, the company grew to own 18 newspapers prior to its acquisition by the Georgia Trust in 2024.

Under Porter's tenure, the Georgia Trust for Local News publications earned 17 awards from the Georgia Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest, including the Newspaper of Excellence Award for The Courier Herald and The Albany Herald.

"We have a strong history of impactful, quality journalism here in the heart of Georgia," said Porter. "Expanding the essential work of these newspapers strengthens communities and fosters local engagement. I believe strongly in the power of independent, community news and I'm looking forward to continuing to build investment and support for the vibrancy of our publications in Georgia's rural communities."

Interested candidates for the executive director position can learn more and apply at <https://www.nationaltrustforlocalnews.org/careers>.



Photo By LG Broadcasting

WINTER WEATHER FINDS TALBOT - Winter weather found its way to Talbot County Sunday morning and dropped about one inch of snow on the area. Weather forecasters had problems deciding if snow was going to fall, but fall it did.

Low Temperatures and Rain Predicted

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Editor's Note: This is a weather forecast and is subject to change. Please make sure to check for weather updates.

The Talbot County area could possibly see more of the white stuff that fell this past Sunday, yes snow. An inch of snow fell in Talbot County on Sunday and no snow had been predicted until late in the week.

Some forecasters are saying that more snow could fall in the area this coming weekend and some forecasters are predicting only rainfall.

Here is what The Weather Channel is predicting for the upcoming week.

Today, Thursday, Jan. 22, the skies over Talbot County are expected to be mostly cloudy with a 24 percent chance of rainfall. The high temperature is expected to reach about 61 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 46 degrees.

Friday, Jan. 23, rain is expected to fall in the area during the a.m. hours and the chance of rainfall is predicted to be about 44 percent. The high temperature for the day is expected to be



about 62 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 46 degrees.

Saturday, Jan. 24, there will be plenty of rainfall with about a 63 percent chance of showers for the day. The high temperature will drop to about 51 degrees and the low temperature is expected to only reach about 38 degrees.

Sunday, Jan. 25, the rain will continue with a 55 percent chance of the wet stuff. The high temperature is expected to reach about 44 degrees and the low temperature is only expected to reach about 29 degrees.

Monday, Jan. 26, the rain is expected to be gone and the skies over Talbot are expected to be mostly sunny. However, the temperatures will be cold with the high temperature only expected to reach about 45 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 25 degrees.

Tuesday, Jan. 27, the skies will be sunny once again with the forecast calling for no rain and only about a nine percent chance of the wet stuff for the area. The high temperature is expected to be around 49 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 32 degrees.

Wednesday, Jan. 28, skies over Talbot County will be partly cloudy with a 24 percent chance of rain. The high temperature is expected to be around 47 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be below the freezing range at 21 degrees.

Thursday, Jan. 29, the temperatures will be a little colder with the high temperature expected to be around 38 degrees and the low temperature is expected to be around 22 degrees. The good news is the skies are expected to be sunny and there is only about a three percent chance of rain.



Contact The New Era by calling (706) 846-3188 or emailing: starmercuryjohn@gmail.com

Things to Do In and Around Talbot County

CEHS Career Day

Central Elementary-High School (CEHS) has announced the 2026 College and Career Day will be held on Wednesday, Mar. 18 this year. The event will be held in the Arthur Miller Gymnasium located at 945 North Washington Avenue in Talbotton from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. For more information, contact Dr. Jenie Carter, counselor by calling (706) 665-8578 Ext. 143 or emailing jcarter1@talbot.k12.ga.us.

Sweater Event

Talbot County 4-H has announced a "Design Your Own Sweater" event. "We invited children in Pre-K through 12th grade to come out and make their own winter sweater with 4-H," said Shamona Willis with Talbot 4-H. The event is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 26 at 4 p.m. at the Extension Office located at 401 Washington Avenue in Talbotton. Refreshments will be served. For more information please call Shamona Willis at (706) 665-3230 or (706) 575-0850.

Alumin Meeting

The Talbot County Schools' Alumni Association has announced its monthly meeting date. According to Dexter Williams with the Alumni

Association, the Alumni Association will hold its monthly meeting on Jan. 24 at 2 p.m.. The meeting will be held at New Salem Baptist Church located at 2060 Geneva Highway in Talbotton. According to Williams, everyone is welcome to attend and be a part of this great organization. "We look forward to seeing you there," Williams said. For more info please call Dexter at 706 315-4143.

Pastor Anniversary

The Friendship Baptist Church family invites everyone to join them as they celebrate the 17th Pastoral Anniversary of Pastor Cedric and First Lady Karon Stanford on Sunday, Jan. 25 at 11 a.m. Be inspired as Minister Antarius Harvey delivers the message. At 2 p.m. there will be a Celebration Service - The celebration will continue with Pastor Kenneth R. Parker of New Salem Missionary Baptist Church of Talbotton bringing the message. This momentous occasion honors 17 years of faithful service, visionary leadership, love and dedication to God's people. Come and experience an atmosphere filled with praise, inspiration, and thanksgiving as we celebrate all that God has done - and all that is yet to come. All are invited to

come celebrate this joyous and memorable occasion!!

Outreach Program

Fishing For Youth of America was founded in memory of Richard Nash's mother and father. The program provides fishing supplies for our youth. It is the hope of FFYA to encourage our youth to fish and do other wholesome activities and to stay away from drugs, guns, gangs and violence. If we can get our youth to appreciate the outdoors they make better young people. If you know of a child or grandchild that could benefit from this program we would love to hear from you. It's also a program that benefits children that would otherwise not get anything for Christmas. If anyone would like to support this cause you can give in Honor or in Memory of someone. For more information on how you can be a part of this much needed outreach you may call Richard 478-998-2996.

New Life Services

New Life Community Church invites everyone to fellowship with the church family on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The church is located at 9108 GA HWY 85 in Waverly Hall at the City Hall building. Rev. Desmond Thornton and associate pastor Rev. Solomon Terry presiding.

Church Pickup

Friendship Baptist Church located in Woodland is offering a Transportation Ministry free to any person who would like to attend the church. The transportation service will be available every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. For more information please contact Clarence Leonard at 706-427-3443 or Scott Hope at 706-573-8231. A mask is advised and social distancing is required.

Free Produce

Geneva Baptist Church will be giving away free produce to everyone every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Produce will be given away while supplies last from FTV Food Bank.

Let Us Help You

Christ the King's Outreach Ministry welcomes Harris and Talbot County residents in need of short-term assistance with groceries, utility bills and rental payments and do what the church can to help. Christ the King's Outreach Ministry office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling the Ministry at (706) 663-0090.

Clothing Center

New Beginnings Outreach Ministry of Woodland has a special clothing center. All items are from community donations. We also have household items, baby accessories and furniture.

EVERYTHING IS FREE. For more information contact Bro. Richard Crawl at 706-977-5469 or Pastor Searcy at 706-601-6776.

Free to Needy

Pastor William Searcy of The New Beginnings Church of Woodland announces that their Outreach Ministry's Center will be open two days a week from nine to five on Monday and Friday. This will be the last week. **EVERYTHING IS FREE.** They have clothing, miscellaneous items, including furniture. Remember, this is FREE to the public. Call 706-601-6776.

Change of Service

Valley Grove Baptist Church, Manchester (Tax), will have services on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. until further notice.

Help for Elderly

The River Valley Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging is ready to help senior citizens. If any senior citizen in the Talbot County Region has problems or needs help with utility bills or more, please call

Woodland Mayor and Board Member of River Valley Regional at 706-256-2900 or 706-256-2928 or Katie Howard at 706-256-2910.

Food Talk Series

UGA Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program is offering free virtual and in-person classes with a series of sessions featuring meals in minutes called "Food Talk." If you are interested or if you have any questions, please contact Erica Chaney at 706-665-2397 or Erica.Chaney@uga.edu. You can also visit the Talbot County Extension Office at 401 S. Washington Ave. in Talbotton.

How to Submit Items

The Talbotton New Era gladly prints items of interest for the community as well as local church news and events by non-profit organizations. Please note the deadline for items for the community and church events section of the newspaper must be received by 12 noon on Monday, prior to run date to be printed in that week's issue. Items received after the Monday deadline will

not appear until the following week. Please do not send items more than once. Items will continue to be printed in the newspaper until the event is over.

Sorry no flyers, items written in all capital letters or items sent as pdf files are accepted. Please email items as an attached on a Word document or as email body copy. Jpegs, pdfs, etc. can not be used by the newspaper for news copy.

Please do not indent or double space between paragraphs and sentences. Please do not use 2025 or spell out months of the year, simply use Sept. 10. Do not use times in this manner 5:00, please use 5 p.m.

Photographs can only be accepted in jpeg format and as an attachment to an email. Please do not attached them to Word documents. Such photographs do not work well.

Please note the newspaper reserves the right to edit or reject any submission for the things to do section.

Thank you for your continued support of the New Era, the Talbot County community and its churches and businesses.

CEHS Announces Student Honor Roll

Submitted to NEW ERA

Central Elementary-High School (CEHS) proudly recognizes students who earned placement on the Principal's List and Honor Roll for the 2nd Nine Weeks grading period. These honorees celebrate students who have demonstrated academic excellence, dedication, and a strong commitment to learning.

The Principal's List recognizes students who earned all A's during the grading period, while the Honor Roll acknowledges students who achieved A's and B's. School administrators commend these students for their hard work and applaud families and teachers for their continued support of academic success.

High School Principal's List
Annabella Edwards, Zy'Mareon Gates, Richard Kirk, Kamari Mizell, Ava Whittemore and James Whittemore.

High School Honor Roll
Trace Chalkley, Carmen Cheney, Madison Daniel,

True DeSue, Jakorian Gamble, Sylrena Hardnett, Sylvetta Hardnett, Amiyah Harris, Kandi Harris, Ta'Shiya Harris, Alisha Hollis, Darriona Leonard, Kor'Derion Oglesby, Kor'Zoria Oglesby, Treavon Reid, Jeremiah Roberts, Rachel Rowland, Carmelo Strickland, Jada Strickland, Brooklyn Swan, JaMya Thomas, Jamerica Thomas, Travis Watson and Khynedi Willis.

Middle School Principal's List
Jazyln Copeland

Middle School Honor Roll
Olivia Mahone, Samiya Mata, Sasha Mata, Aalivia Mizell, London Nieves, A'Niya Rhodes, Gauge Sullivan, De'Asia Thomas, Tiana Wright

Elementary School Principal's List

Jaxen Deaton, Tristan DeSue, Stella Dewberry, Camryn Ellison, Za'Mora Green, De'Leaya Harris, Jariah Hart, Ne'Ija Hughley, A'Niyah Hunter, A'Javeyn Jones and Cailanni Leonard.

Elementary Honor Roll

Cazharius Brown, Jakevious Brown, Kyrie Brown, Dnayla Bunkley, Kash Carreker, Riley Childs, Brookelynn Collier-Terry, Kaleb Copeland, Sanaa Copeland, Semon Copeland, Syn'J Copeland, Jhy'Kevious Daniel, Marquez Daniel, Jordan Davis, Elijah Deaton, Jaxon Dillingham, Dedrick Epps, Shelia Epps, Kylan Ford, A'lajeah Gates, Aaliyah Gilliam, Ay'Din Green, Rryan Grove, Khaza Harris, Londen Harris, Austyn Heath, Jayden Heath, Kingston Henderson, Brianna Holloway, Brycen Holmes, Paris Holmes, Loyal Hunter, Jabren Jackson, Kearsyn Jones, Amelia Kelley, Miracle Kelley, Charlie Lowe, Jayden Marshall, Arya Mays, Karielle McNair, Bre'Shona Mitchell, Travyn Neal, Lotus Nieves, Wyatt Passmore, Kenneth Phillips, Christian Raines, Siyanna Smith, Syjae' Stanford, Jordyn Thomas, Kelsie Turner, Autumn West and Taden White.

List of student's in alphabetical order.

Medical Situation Ends Space Mission

By ANDY KOBER

Once again, SpaceX becomes the hero.

As recently reported, four crew members on the International Space Station had to be evacuated due to one of them suffering a non-emergency medical situation.

SpaceX brought the four safely to Earth on Jan. 15, and they splashed down in the Pacific Ocean near Long Beach, California. As of Friday they were at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

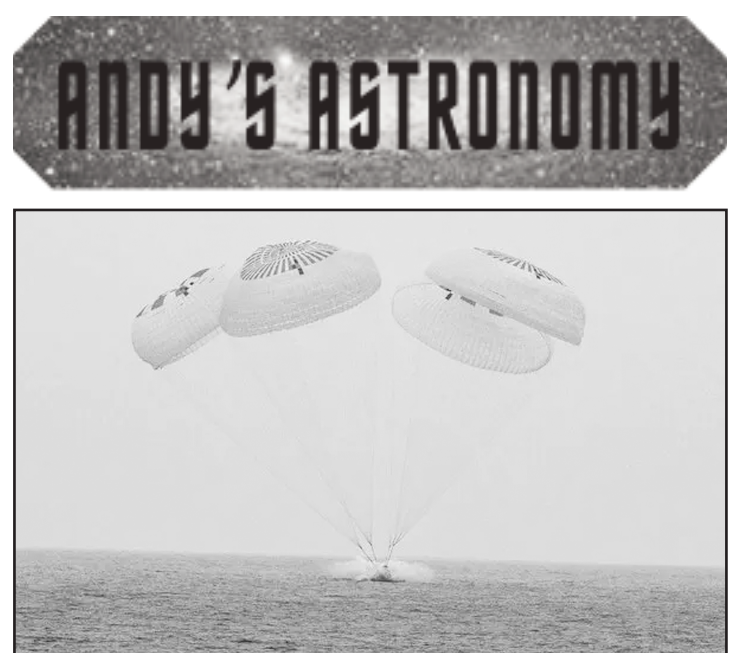
There has been no information regarding the medical situation or which crew member was involved.

The leaves only three crew members on the ISS, but SpaceX was scheduled to send four astronauts to the station on Feb. 15. Efforts at accelerating the launch date are being considered.

This week we explore two more of the stars found in the constellation Orion, or Orion the Hunter.

Orion is one of the easier constellations to find because of the three stars that appear to be in a row forming his belt. To find Orion's belt, about 10 pm look high in the sky just east of south.

Looking above Orion's Belt is the star Meissa, which is the hunter's head. This is a double star located about 1,300 light-years from Earth. The primary star is about 10 times the size of our Sun with about 34 times the mass. An O-type star, it gives off light with a slight shade of blue.



The secondary star is thought to be a brown dwarf.

To the far right and below Orion's belt is the star Rigel, which forms the hunter's left foot. Rigel is the brightest of the stars in Orion and is actually composed of four stars that appear as a single blue-white point of light. The primary is found about 850 light-years from Earth. It is thought to have 18 to 25 times the mass of our Sun and about 70 times as large. Rigel is estimated to be about nine million years old and has exhausted its core hydrogen. It is anticipated that Rigel will become a supernova and then either a neutron star or black hole.

Keep your eyes on the sky for passing fireballs.

Meteors can flash across the sky anytime, day or night, and extraordinarily bright meteors are often referred to as fireballs --- and they are

spotted quite often.

On Tuesday, Jan. 13, 14 people across Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina reported seeing a fireball. The fireball was first reported at 3:33 am by a skywatcher in Pinnacle, NC. In Georgia, skywatchers in Augusta, Lawrenceville, and Rayle saw the fireball.

None of those seeing the fireball reported any noise or seeing it fragment, however its passing was captured on two videos and two still photos.

Anyone seeing a fireball is urged to report the sighting to <https://amsmeteors.org>

Going outside and looking at the sky, especially the night sky, can be fun and educational for the entire family.

There are a number of free apps available to help identify stars and constellations, and some of the apps will show satellites.

Happy skywatching!

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City of Woodland's Guidelines on Tampering with City Water Meters

Why It's Important:

Legal Compliance: Accessing water meter boxes without authorization is against City Code. Violations can result in fines or other penalties.

Meter Reading Accuracy: Unauthorized access can damage the meters, making it difficult for city officials to accurately read water usage. This can lead to incorrect billing and potential issues.

Safety Concerns: Water meter boxes contain sensitive equipment. Tampering with them can pose safety risks to individuals and disrupt water services.

Consequences of Violations:

Fines and Penalties: Residents found tampering (removing or cutting locks, etc.) with a water service that has been disconnected (because of past due bills) will have to pay a non-refundable \$425 plus the entire balance that is listed on the account before services are restored.

In addition, law enforcement may be contacted to assist with cases, which can result in residents having to pay court costs & fines as well.

Service Disruptions: Damaging a water meter can lead to interruptions in water service, affecting not only the violator but also the surrounding community.

Repair Costs: Any damage caused by unauthorized access may result in costly repairs, which could be billed to the responsible party.

City's Request

The City of Woodland urges all residents to respect these regulations and avoid accessing water meter boxes. If you notice any issues with your water meter or have concerns, please contact the City at 706-674-2200 for assistance.

By following these guidelines, we can ensure the safety and efficiency of our water services. Thank you for your cooperation!

Opinions & Ideas

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THE TALBOTTON NEW ERA

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Here's To a Healthy New Year!

Ah, health.

The thing we should value most in our lives.

With 2026 now in full swing, it's time for me to take a little stock in good health, considering how things have gone for me recently.

Since getting out of the hospital on November 1st, I have managed to gain back some (okay, a lot) of the weight I had lost. That did not make me popular with my cardiologist on my last visit to his office last week. The nurse practitioner asked me point blank, "Are you trying to have another heart attack? Because that's one way to make it happen."

I was properly chastised and said I would back off the snacking. You see, I count calories at each meal, and try to keep my calorie intake at between 1500 and 2000 a day. That's easy to do - if you don't snack between meals, as I have a tendency to do.

The words of my cardiologist ran through my head at that moment: "If you want to have any kind of lifestyle at all, you're going to have to take better care of yourself."

I promptly went home and took every single snack food item I'd bought in the last few weeks - chips, crackers, cookies, spice drops - and tossed them all in the trash can. Then, to keep myself from cheating again, I took the trash out to the outside bin so it wouldn't be so close.

I'd like to think I wouldn't grab snacks out of the trash, but sometimes desperate people do desperate things.

It seems to have paid off for me, too, as I've dropped a little over three pounds since the great snack clean-out.

But it was necessary. I was operating under the thought of "it won't hurt if I eat a little here and there." Of course, that's a fallacy - or, as I've heard said, "A moment on the lips, a lifetime on the hips." Truer words were never said.

As I was cleaning out some of the snack items, I took a moment to notice their calorie count. On any typical day, when I was trying to keep the calories in the range I mentioned earlier, the snacks brought me up to 2500 and even 3000 calories a day.

You ain't gonna lose weight with that.

To be perfectly honest with you, I *should* be taking better care of myself. After all, I'm still recovering from a heart attack, pneumonia, and congestive heart failure, and my doctor's comment about lifestyle looms large in my mind. I take 13 different medications each day: some in the morning, some at dinner, some before bed. I now sleep with a CPAP machine which is fed oxygen from the gizmo that I was tethered to



Jack Bagley

Musings of An Aging Mind

my first few weeks out of the hospital.

And here I am, messing up all that effort with my eating habits.

I do not ever again want to go through what I went through during the last half of 2025. I jokingly call it my "adventure."

Hmpf. Some adventure.

Being sick is not fun, and it is also quite expensive. Even with good insurance, there are out-of-pocket charges that can leave you scrambling before payday if you aren't ready for them. I won't say I had the best insurance, but you will never hear me say a bad word about Medicare. My two hospitalizations during the second half of last year cost somewhere just south of half a million dollars, but the only amount I'm on the hook for is around \$2,000. Medicare took care of the rest.

This year, the folks who own this newspaper (and many others) offered health insurance. I eagerly signed up, despite being 67 years old and in less-than-perfect health. They even provide dental and vision coverage, and brother, let me tell you, those I intend to use. My vision has been an issue since I was 11 years old, and I don't want to get into any discussions about my teeth (what I have left of them, anyway).

With my luck, of course, I will have good health for the foreseeable future, since I have insurance. But isn't that really the name of the game? Getting healthy, and staying that way, should be the New Year's resolution we all make for ourselves.

I am very glad that I do not smoke, very seldom drink, and have never tried designer pharmaceuticals. I've seen the results of their use in friends and family members and realized that the use of those is a pretty terrible way to go.

Now, if I can control my food intake, I just might make it to 70 and beyond.

I've lost weight before, as you may know. I dropped over 100 pounds on two different occasions, but managed to pack it all back on.

This year, I am committing myself to being healthy. To taking care of my heart, which isn't in the best shape.

If I don't, I *should* be committed.

It Ain't Hard to Decide on Good or Healthy

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), at least one in five adults (about 20% of the population) in the United States is living with obesity.

Now, if you live in Georgia, that number is greater.

According to the CDC, the states with the highest adult obesity rates (35% or higher) include: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

How do you know if you are suffering from obesity? The CDC says anyone with a body mass of 30 or higher is suffering from obesity.

So, I decided to look into what might be considered what makes healthy food. According to Healthline, the foods most people consider to be healthy are whole foods that contain beneficial nutrients, are low in saturated fat, sodium and do not contain additives like sweeteners. In other words to eat healthy

the food has to be what I would consider to be kind of, well shall we say bland.

Notice, Georgia is one of the states that has a high obesity rate and I would guess that is because of what we like to eat.

In the South, we love our fried foods. Dang it, fried foods are deeply rooted in the South because it is part of our history and sure enough part of our culture. We have more fried chicken restaurants in the South than Carter's got liver pills.

Heck, every restaurant in the South that survives has some kind of fried food on the menu.

Why do we love our fried foods in the South? Well, mainly because it is a staple that has been handed down from generation to generation as far back as when the South was discovered. Fried foods provide us with a blend of flavors and textures that we crave dagnabit.

So, low in saturated fat and sodium is difficult. In the South, grits and fried eggs with bacon or sausage and biscuits is our go to breakfast. Not so bad until we fry it up, add all that butter and salt, but it sure taste good.



John Kuykendall
Publisher & Editor

Don't it?

As for sweeteners in the South? How can we do away with such a thing? We love our desserts like pecan and other southern pie delicacies. Shoot, what is a meal, except for breakfast, that don't include southern sweet tea?

In the South, food is part of our southern hospitality. Every time someone visits we have to feed them. That's the southern way. Everybody knows we can't let company eat alone. That would be just down right rude!

Good food is so much a part of the South, many of our southern slang expressions have developed because of our love for our food.

Growing up in the South you learn some of these sayings pretty quickly and probably are saying them before the age of two years old.

While the Yanks are say-

ing, "I'm so full," in the South we bring out the true meaning of a good meal and compliment the chef with the saying, "I'm plumb stuffed." For y'all who don't know the meaning of the word plumb, it ain't a fruit, it meaning full.

In the South, you know the meal is good when you hear somebody say, "I'm fixing to get seconds."

Heck, food is so much a part of our life when we hear good news or get a pleasant surprise, we don't say, "Oh, wow." No, in the South we say, "Well butter my biscuit." That means it's goooood.

When we are extremely happy in the South, we express it in a way only southerners can understand when we are happy and feeling good. We say, "I'm as happy as a pig in slop."

So you see, food in the South is important, but only good food and unfortunately that don't mean low in unsaturated fat or sodium. No when meal time comes it means it's time to break out the bacon grease.

I could go on and I probably will write some more about our southern way of life. But I got to now, sweet tea and pie is calling.

Some Are Easily Misled

Watching the continuing issues in Minnesota is extremely disheartening and reminiscent of times past.

Some of you that have been around for a while will remember protests held regarding Lt. William Calley and the My Lai Massacre that took place during the Vietnam War.

For those unfamiliar, on the morning of March 16, 1968, American soldiers murdered 400 to 500 Vietnamese in Quang Ngai province in South Vietnam. Almost all those murdered were old men, women, and children. In addition to the murders, some of the women were raped - including girls as young as 12 years old.

The soldiers were seeking Vietcong and Vietcong sympathizers, of which very few if any were present that morning, but following alleged ambiguous orders, turned their attention to the villagers. It was certainly not the way to win the hearts and minds of the native population and did much to stoke anti-war protests in the US.

Blame for the massacre should have been shared by

several higher-ranked Army officers, but only one would end up shouldering the responsibility - a lowly lieutenant - William Calley.

Calley was demonized by some and considered a scapegoat by others. There were protests that demanded he be severely punished and protests in support of him because he was perceived as taking the fall for others.

A young teenager at the time, I was at one of those protests. The 1960s was a time for protesting anything and everything, and I think it was the only protest I ever attended. The memory has grown fuzzy over the years but I do remember the protest was peaceful. I'm sure there was law enforcement present, but I do not remember any issues.

That is so very different from today.

THE continuing protests taking place almost daily, most notably in Minnesota, has once again put on display the tremendous behavioral differences among people.

Violence against law enforcement officers who



Andy Kober
Columnist

are doing their jobs - something largely unthinkable in the past - has become a daily occurrence that has resulted in injuries and death. Sadly, it is likely there will be more.

The current protests are about law enforcement officers, specifically ICE, enforcing the law. Each person ICE officers take into custody for being here illegally have their day in court. If they are here legally, they go free. They do not have to be citizens of the US, just be in the country legally. If they are here illegally, they are breaking our laws. There is no middle ground. But if you think the protests are about ICE enforcement of immigration laws, you might well be mistaken. Consider they might be about destabiliza-

tion.

As the current Trump administration celebrates its official first year, inflation is down from Biden-era days. For the most part, prices are dropping. Just as this was being written, it was reported that mortgage rates had dropped to the lowest level in four years. Income taxes are dropping for most middle-income Americans and the price of gasoline has dropped by a third and is still falling despite issues with the global supply of oil.

Without doubt, the economic news is good and getting better yet there are those who do not benefit from such news. And they are determined to once again bring an end to the good economic times under Trump.

The core group of protestors is being paid by people and organizations working in the shadows seeking only to divert attention from the good that is happening.

That's my opinion.

A newspaper columnist for over 35 years, Andy Kober can be reached by email at andykober@hotmail.com

* Striving In 2026 With High Expectations *

Greetings and blessings!

As I write this Monday, it's MLK's federal holiday. Of course, King died fighting for equal rights, for black and white with high expectations for his fellow man, and so must we! Indeed, I fervently pray that one of our major utmost expectations this year 2026 will be striving to build a stronger and intimate relationship with God! And too, that we began anew believing the best of and in everyone we know. More so, ask God to help us to be anxious and ready to sincerely forgive and forget, like He forgives us over and over again. In doing so, it will help us have more peace and joy. Furthermore, we will enjoy the people in our lives much more than ever before. Perhaps, we will become friends with our enemies and



Pres Hall
Columnist

genuinely love them unconditionally too. However, let's strive wholeheartedly, trusting God with high expectations to make this year 2026 better than the last. And of course, we can't move forward, living in the past. **Philippians 3:13** says, "But one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining (striving) forward to what lies ahead." And I do believe that God has great plans with expectations for all of us. Read **Jeremiah 29:11**.

You see and know that God doesn't need us; we surely need Him as we strive to fulfill our expectation, according to His Will. So then, be very mindful of anger, jealousy, and mess/foolishness and ultimately; misunderstanding. But whatever, with honest communication, perhaps we can find/establish common ground and resolve. A devotional said, "In order to begin this new year properly, it is so important not to enter it with any kind of bitterness or unforgiveness in our hearts." I most certainly agree! Now God's Word says, "...If we carry anger around, it could turn to sin and give the devil a foothold on our lives..." (**Ephesians 4:26-27**). Rather, I sincerely pray with expectation that God gives us a compromising spirit to

let go and let Him. Now Lord, please help us to grow in Your grace and wisdom that we may mend disagreements with families, friends and enemies this year 2026. It's essential that we strive with expectations to honor God, serve others and *make a positive, uplifting and affective difference in someone else's lives*. Meanwhile, "It's not about knowing what the future (2026) holds, but rather about knowing Who holds the future of (2026)." It's none other than our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, God Almighty! Howbeit, when God bless us to see another year alive, it's a valuable gift that should not be taken lightly. It's a gift that should be used for His glory and honor, not our own. **May God's love, grace and mercy be with us all!**

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Bible Thought of the Week

"Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret - it leads only to evil. For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land."

Psalms 37:8-11

Grumpy Dentists, Tele-Orthodontistry, and Excess Floss

I have a dentist appointment coming up, and like most people, I'm not looking forward to it.

Don't get me wrong, I have a meticulous dental hygiene routine. My days are book-ended with vigorous brushing sessions, floss (one must always floss) and medicated mouthwash. Even so, the dentist is sure to find something wrong, one tiny spot of weak enamel or a tooth not getting as much attention as its neighbors, and they will let me know what a terrible job I'm doing taking care of myself, all for a nominal fee.

Dentists tend to be very grumpy, but if I had to spend my days wrist deep in other people's mouths I'd be a little cranky too. Especially banking on the fact that most people lie about their flossing habits. But at least they drive home in nice cars.

I bet a lot of floss is sold in January. It has to rank up there with gym memberships. Good-intentioned folks



Kyle Dominy

New Southern Dad

make New Year's resolutions to take better care of themselves, purchase a whole bunch of floss, typically in the form of some expensive gadget supposed to make the chore easier, and then give up after a couple of days of spitting blood into the bathroom sink. All that floss ends up in the landfill, trapping birds and other wildlife. Birds love floss apparently, but, sadly, they don't have teeth or hands to use it with.

A new law in the great state of Georgia allows for tele-dentistry. I'm not sure how that's supposed to work, turn the camera to selfie mode, open wide and put the lens in your mouth. Don't for-

get to turn on the flashlight. I'm sure the doctor will still find something to fuss about. At least you can hang up on him.

I've invested a tidy sum of money in teeth over the past decade. Kids grow them and lose them at an alarming rate. I'm pretty sure my daughter is part shark. We gave up the tooth fairy charade in my house fairly early in her life because I was going broke.

Speaking of growing broke, all of my offspring needed orthodontist work, so I'm paying a lot of people to poke around their mouths. I wonder how long before that line of work goes remote? Just mail me a spool of wire and solder, poorly translated instructions and a good luck note.

I have a small chip in one of my front teeth. I got it playing a jaw harp, you know of those metal framed instruments you put in the mouth that makes that "boing, boing" sound? The box warns

you that it could mess your teeth up, but I heeded not their warning.

You cannot trust someone with perfect teeth though. If you see someone with a complete set of pearly whites, perfectly aligned,

they bought them. There again, too few teeth come across poorly, too. A normal person is expected to have some coffee stains, a gap here or there and at least one broken tooth.

Even so I'll think I'll go

floss one more time before I head to the dentist's office.

You can reach Kyle Dominy at: k.l.dominy@gmail.com or write to 115 South Jefferson St. Dublin, Ga. 31021.

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Georgia State Retirees Association to Meet

Submitted to *NEW ERA*

The Tri-County Chapter of the Georgia State Retirees Association (GSRA) will hold its quarterly meeting at Doodlum's Barbeque and Fruit Stand located at 18600 Main Street, Woodbury, GA 30293 on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 11:30 AM. Lunch can be purchased individually. The Tri-County Chapter includes retirees from Meriwether, Harris, Troup, Talbot, Upson, and Pike

counties. Scheduled speaker is Nathan Coflin from Medicare Senior Patrol. He will give a presentation about Medicare fraud. Join your fellow retirees and prospective retirees for this informative meeting.

For more information, contact Joy Evans at 706-656-0046 or Kay Garrett at 706-846-3422 or Kathy Clements at 706-655-2390. GSRA is an organization established and maintained by state retirees for state

retirees. We advocate for retirees as well as active employees and keep you informed about any changes or impacts to your retirement benefits through monthly newsletters, media sites, annual statewide meetings, legislative liaison team, action alerts, and local chapters with regular meetings. Join your fellow retirees and prospective retirees and help us help you. Website - www.mygsra.com

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FEATURES

Did You Know... by Jack Bagley

Did a beloved "Star Trek" actor almost wind up on a different science fiction show?



By JACK BAGLEY
didyouknowcolumn@gmail.com

It's time for the first *mea culpa* of 2026!
Yes, it seems I've been caught in an error in the column two weeks ago.

In it, I mentioned the fact that actor Michael J. Fox's middle name doesn't actually begin with a "J." That wasn't the error, however. The error was in the listing of his birth. I said he was born in 1981, when he was actually born in 1961.

To his credit, Mr. Fox wasn't the one who pointed it out, and if he saw it at all he probably appreciated my taking 20 years off his age.

I do want to thank my friend Hack Stone at valorguardians.com for correcting me on Mr. Fox's year of birth. Now, on to this week's trivia!

Did you know ...

... probability has actually been calculated regarding the "monkey typing *Hamlet*" saw? You know, the one that says if you put a hundred monkeys in a room with a hundred typewriters, eventually they'd write *Hamlet*. Well, the actual probability of such a thing happening is 1 in 10^{360,783}. I don't know about you, but I have no idea how big a number that actually is. (Maybe if the monkeys wrote the *National Enquirer*, the probability would be lower. Or perhaps they already do.)

... two of the belligerent nations of World War II have never actually ended the war? Japan and Russia never formally ended hostilities following the Japanese surrender in 1945. An attempt was made in 2000 to finally sign a peace treaty between the two nations, but the attempt failed when Russia refused to return to Japan four offshore islands it had occupied during the war. (Talk about holding a grudge!)

... Valentine's Day is banned in Iran? The Islamic Republic's government prohibited celebrating Valentine's Day in 2011. According to the headline government, cards, teddy bears, and other Valentine's gifts are part of "the spread of Western culture" and are against Iranian norms. (Why am I not surprised?)

... an iconic role in the movie *Ghostbusters* was meant for someone else? The original 1984 film featured Bill Murray (born 1950) in the role of Peter Venkman, and he played it in the 1989 sequel as well. But Murray was not the first choice for the role of Venkman. The part was written to be played by John Belushi (1949-1982), but Belushi died of a drug overdose before production could start.

... a beloved *Star Trek* actor almost ended up on another science fiction show? Actor James Doohan (1920-2005) is known the world over as Montgomery Scott, irascible Chief Engineer of the USS *Enterprise* in *Star Trek*. But not long after Doohan was cast for the second pilot episode of the classic sci-fi series, he was offered another major role in a different show - that of the Chief Petty Officer of the research submarine *Seaview* in *Voyage to the*

Bottom of the Sea. Doohan would have replaced actor Henry Kulky (1911-1965), who had played CPO Curley Jones of the *Seaview* on the first season of the series and who had died suddenly after the season had finished filming. Doohan chose to keep his commitment to *Star Trek*, even though the series had not yet sold, and *Voyage* went with actor Terry Becker (1921-2014) in the new role of CPO Francis Sharkey. (He was, indeed, a miracle worker!)

... one of the most famous rulers of ancient Egypt was not Egyptian? Cleopatra VII (69 BC-30 BC), famous today for her affairs with Julius Caesar (100 BC-44 BC) and Mark Antony (83 BC-30 BC), was actually of Greek descent. She was the last active ruler of Egypt under the Ptolemaic kingdom. After her death, Egypt was annexed as a province of the Roman Empire.

... the champagne used to christen a ship is a modern substitute for human blood? Back in the days of the Vikings, they - and various South Sea tribes - would sacrifice people on the prows of newly-built ships so that the spirit of the victim would guard the craft. Later, wine was substituted for the blood, and today we use champagne. (Which is a good thing, if you ask me.)

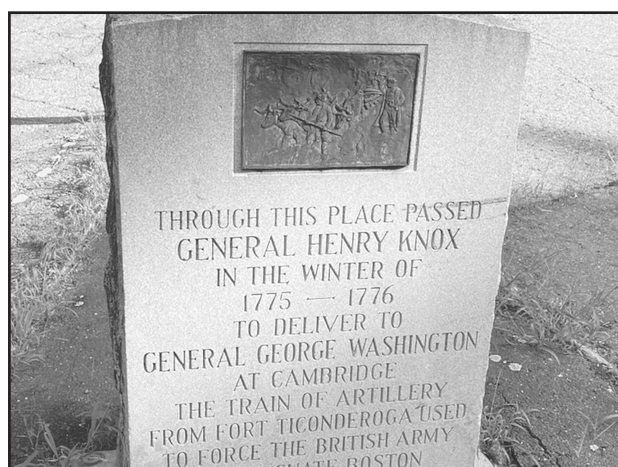
... pistachio nuts sometimes spontaneously combust? That's right, it's possible for a bag of pistachio nuts to break into a glorious fire for no apparent reason. Well, there is a reason, of course. Pistachios are high in fat, and low in moisture. That causes them to be self-heating, and if they're tightly packed, that can have a blazing consequence. When pistachios are transported, things like temperature and humidity have to be carefully controlled to prevent fire or even possible explosions. (That's just nutty.)

... movies once had some very strange guidelines to follow? From 1930 to 1968, Hollywood had to follow the Hays Code, named for its first official censor, Will H. Hays (1879-1954). Hays was the first chairman of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America. His code had some very strict guidelines regarding the interaction of men and women on screen. For example: men and women kissing in American films would only be permitted if one of the participants was sitting or standing; all on-screen married couples had to sleep in twin beds; and if a kiss happened in one of those beds, at least one of the spouses had to have one foot on the floor. The Code was replaced by the voluntary rating system of the Motion Picture Association of America in 1968. (And actors and audiences are glad of that.)

... the Greeks had a god of sleep? His name was Hypnos. Like most other Greek gods, he carried over into Roman mythology with a different name; the Romans called him Somnus. (I've had many nights when I wished he'd come visit.)

Now ... you know!

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INCREDIBLE EFFORT - This week in 1776, Col. Henry Knox delivers badly needed cannons to Gen. George Washington's Continental Army, with the cannons taken from Fort Ticonderoga. This was a perilous 300-mile journey in the wintertime. Today, the route taken by Knox is currently marked with 56 plaques and stones, the latest one added in 2009.

1776 - Knox Delivers Cannons to George Washington This Week In American History

By ANDY KOBER

Here is what happened this week in American History.

• **Jan. 22.** On this day in 2009, President Barack Obama signs an executive order to close the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, however bipartisan opposition against that order resulted in the facility remaining open.

• **Jan. 23.** In 1986, the first members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame are inducted and included Little Richard, Chuck Berry, James Brown, Ray Charles, Sam Cooke, Fats Domino, The Everly Brothers, Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis Presley. Located in Cleveland, Ohio, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame had just been dedicated the previous September.

• **Jan. 24.** Today in 1935, the Gottfried Krueger Brewing Company located in Newark, New Jersey, offers the first beer sold in cans. This was a titular partnership with American Can Company providing the equipment producing the cans.

• **Jan. 25.** In 1950, Operation Thunderbolt begins in the Korean War. This will be Gen. Matthew Ridgway's first offensive operation and the first since the massive retreat suffered by South Korea, UN and US forces in the face of determined Chinese and North Korean attacks. Starting a week prior, Ridgway had units - including tank companies - probing the enemy's locations and strengths. One of those operations inflicted nearly 1,400 killed and captured among the People's Volunteer Army and Korean Peoples Army while suffering just three killed and seven wounded. Learning the disposition of enemy forces and their weaknesses, along with coordinating air power from the Fifth Air Force and naval bombardment from Task Force 95, Operation Thunderbolt begins as a reconnaissance in force but quickly morphs into a general attack. PVA and KPA forces counterattack but in most cases quickly break contact and retreat.

• **Jan. 26.** On this day in 1950, Operation Thunderbolt is in its opening phases as Turkish military forces, part of the UN forces, move toward Suwon overcoming PVA and KPA resistance. The US 1st Cavalry is moving northward and the US 7th Cavalry is advancing

toward Ich'on. Suwon and its airfield are captured by the US 35th Infantry. Fighting becomes intense around Kumnyangjang-ni before resistance is cleared by Turkish forces.

• **Jan. 27.** In 1776, in celebration of the 250th birthday of the US, the sorely needed "noble train of artillery" arrived in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While dedicated to the idea of freedom and willing to fight and die for it, the Continental Army had no heavy weapons. Without that, they could not conduct offensive actions against the British. The Continental Army had captured Fort Ticonderoga in May with cannons inside. Washington tasked Henry Knox with transporting those heavy weapons from Fort Ticonderoga to Cambridge. This was 60 tons of cannons and armament a distance of 300 miles during the winter. The cannons were moved using barges, horses, ox-drawn sleds, and manpower. The cannons would be used to drive the British out of Boston and the surrounding area. Knox's success came to be known as "one of the most stupendous feats of logistics" that took place during the Revolutionary War. The trail taken is now known as the Henry Knox Trail. Knox would become the Chief Artillery Officer of the Continental Army and later become the first US Secretary of War.

• **Jan. 28.** Today in 1980, US Coast Guard Cutter *Blackthorn* is outward bound from Tampa Bay, Florida. Inbound at the same time is the tanker *Capricorn*. *Blackthorn's* captain was off the bridge investigating a propulsion shaft problem. As the two vessels approached, an ensign conning the *Blackthorn* prepared for a left-to-left pass, which is common. At the same time, *Capricorn* began a left turn and sounded two whistle blasts calling for a starboard-to-starboard pass. *Blackthorn's* ensign was confused and at the point *Blackthorn's* captain ordered a turn, it was too late and the two ships struck. *Capricorn's* anchor became embedded in *Blackthorn's* hull ripping a large gash along the side before pulling the smaller vessel onto her side. The *Blackthorn* sank taking 23 of her crew with her. A World War II era bouy tender, the *Blackthorn* would be raised, towed out of the shipping channel, and sunk as an artificial reef.



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GRIN and BEAR IT



"So far we've been unable to capture a coach."

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Photo By LG Broadcasting

GIVING ADVICE AND INSTRUCTIONS TO THE HAWKS - Central Elementary-High School Head Basketball Coach Nasir Oglesby gives advice and instructions to the team during a recent game. The Hawks got off to a great start this season but have stumble a little and are now 5-8 overall this season.



Photo By LG Broadcasting

FIRING UP THE TEAM AND THE CROWD - Members of the Central Elementary-High School cheerleading squad help to keep the basketball teams and the crowd fired up during the games.



Happy Birthday!



Submitted Photo

MS. ELLA B. HARVEY CELEBRATING 98th BIRTHDAY - Ms. Ella B. Harvey will be celebrating her 98th birthday on January 27. We are wishing you a very Happy Birthday Mother. From your family. We Love You.

College and Career Day Scheduled for CEHS

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Central Elementary-High School (CEHS) has announced the 2026 College and Career Day will be held on Wednesday, Mar. 18 this year.

The event will be held in the Arthur Miller Gymnasium located at 945 North Washington Avenue in Talbotton from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

For more information, please contact Dr. Jenie Carter, CEHS counselor by

calling her at (706) 665-8578 Ext. 143 or emailing her at jrcarterII@talbot.k12.ga.us

4-H to Hold Design a Sweater Event

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

Talbot County 4-H has announced a "Design Your Own Sweater" event.

"We invited children in Pre-K through 12th grade to come out and make their own winter sweater with 4-H," said Shamona Willis with Talbot 4-H.

The event is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 26 at 4 p.m. at the Extension Office located at 401 Washington Avenue in Talbotton.

Refreshments will be served.

For more information please call Shamona Willis at (706) 665-3230 or (706) 575-0850.

Tough Week for CEHS Basketball Teams

By JOHN KUYKENDALL

The Central Elementary-High School (CEHS) Lady Hawk basketball team is 2-8 on the season and 1-7 in region play while the Hawks are 5-8 overall and have a 3-7 region record.

LADY HAWKS Crawford Co. 64 - CEHS 53

The Lady Hawks hosted the Crawford County High Lady Eagles on Tuesday, Jan. 13 and lost a heartbreaker by a score of 64-53.

The Lady Hawks trailed the Lady Eagles by a slim margin of 10-7 when the first quarter came to an end and were trailing by a score of 27-25 at the end of the first half.

It was the third quarter that made the difference. The Lady Eagles exploded on offense to score 20 points and held the Lady Hawks to only nine points to take a 47-34 lead.

The Lady Hawks out scored the Lady Eagles 19-17 in the fourth quarter, but it was not enough and the Lady Eagles won by a score of 64-53.

Freshman Kylie Bunkley scored 14 points for the Lady Hawks in the game, had an assist and a steal and sophomore Darriuna Leonard scored 14 points, had a rebound, two assists, four steals and two blocks and freshman Kor'Zoria Oglesby scored two points and had two rebounds.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final
CCH	10	17	20	17	64
CHS	7	18	9	19	53

Marion Co. 58 - CEHS 40

The Lady Hawks hosted the Marion County High Lady Eagles on Friday, Jan. 16 and were defeated by a score of 58-40.

The Lady Eagles jumped out to an early lead in the game and led by a score of 12-2 at the end of the first quarter and increased the lead to 33-14 by the end of the first half.

The Lady Hawks played much better in the second half with the Lady Eagles holding onto a 43-25 third quarter lead and Marion went on to win the game by a score of 58-40.

Junior Madison Daniels led the Lady Hawks on offense and pulled off a double-double scoring 20 points, had 28 rebounds, three assists and two steals.

Other Lady Hawks helping the team's offensive effort included: Oglesby with eight points, 10 rebounds and a steal; Leonard with five points, a rebound, an assist and a steal; junior Adrea Thomas scored three points and had two rebounds; and junior Jhi'Aija Couch scored two points, had four rebounds and two assists.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final
MCH	12	21	10	15	58



Photo By LG Broadcasting

MAKING A FREE THROW SHOT - Central Elementary-High School Lady Hawk Darriuna Leonard, a sophomore, takes a free throw shot in a recent game. The Lady Hawks fell to 2-8 on the season and are 1-7 in region play after last week's action.

CHS 2 12 11 15 40

Macon Co. 74 - CEHS 11

On Saturday, Jan. 17 the Lady Hawks traveled to Montezuma to play the Macon County Lady Bulldogs and were defeated by a score of 74-11.

The Lady Bulldogs led by a score of 29-4 at the end of the first quarter and 44-5 at the end of the first half.

The Lady Bulldogs held onto a 58-8 lead at the end of the third quarter and went on to win the game by a score of 74-11.

Sorry, no individual statistics were available for the game.

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final
CHS	4	1	3	3	11
MCH	29	15	14	16	74

HAWKS

Crawford Co. 57 - Hawks 50

The Hawks hosted the Crawford County High Eagles on Tuesday, Jan. 13 and were defeated in a close game by a score of 57-50.

Senior Jamarion Williams had a double-double scoring 12 points, had 13 rebounds, and assist and three blocks; junior Jamal Morgan scored 12 points, had six rebounds, four assists and two steals; sophomore Brody Leonard scored 12 points, had seven rebounds, three assists, had three steals, and a block; senior Brannon Bussey scored five points, had a rebound and an assist; junior Ja'Quan Wilson scored five points, had two rebounds, two assists and two steals.

Marion Co. 82 - Hawks 65

The Hawks hosted the Marion County High Eagles on Friday, Jan. 16 and were defeated by a score of 82-65.

Leonard was hot-handed for the Hawks in the game and scored 25 points, had two assists and four steals.

Morgan scored 15 points for the Hawks had six rebounds, six assists, four steals and a block.

Williams was the only other Hawk player to score in double digits with 12 points had seven rebounds and two assists.

Other players adding to the Central offensive effort included: freshman Jamariyon Mahone with six points and had seven rebounds; Bussey scored three points, had a rebound, an assist and a steal; Wilson scored two points, had four rebounds, an assist and two steals and sophomore Jhi'Quez Hollis scored two points, had two rebounds and a block.

Up Next for the teams

On Saturday, Jan. 24 the teams will host the Chattahoochee County Panthers with the Lady Hawks taking to the court at 2 p.m. and the Hawks tipping off at 3:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, Jan. 27 the teams will travel to Ellaville to play the Schley County High Wildcats with the Lady Hawks tipping off at 6 p.m. and the Hawks taking to the court at 7:30 p.m.

AROUND REGION 6

GIRLS		BOYS	
Team	Region Record	Team	Region Record
Macon County	6-0	Chatto	8-0
Marion County	6-1	Macon County	7-3
Schley County	4-3	Taylor County	6-1
Taylor County	4-1	Schley County	5-3
Chatto	2-5	Marion County	5-3
Central High	1-7	Crawford Co.	3-6
Crawford Co.	1-5	Central High	3-7
Webster County	0-2	Webster County	1-7
		Furlow Charter	0-8

NOTICE

QUALIFICATION DATES AND FEES FOR MAY 19, 2026 GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Qualification dates for the 2026 General Primary have been set for March 2, 2026, through March 6, 2026.

Individuals wishing to qualify may do so at the Talbot County Board of Elections office, 1761 Geneva Highway Talbotton, GA 31827 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on March 2 through March 5, 2026, and 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon on March 6, 2026.

County offices that are up for election in 2026 are: County Commissioner for Districts 1, 2, and 3, Board of Education District 2 and 3.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 21-2-131 (a) (1)(A)(B) the following qualifying fees were set by the Talbot County Commissioners in the January 5, 2026 meeting.

Office	Fee
County Commissioner D-1	\$552.69
D-2	\$621.78
D-3	\$552.69
Board of Education Member D-2	\$276.00
D-3	\$306.00

The General Primary will be held on May 19, 2026, and the General Primary Runoff will be held on June 16, 2026. Early Voting/Advance Voting will begin April 27, - May 15, 2026, including two Saturday Voting days May 2, and May 9, 2026 for the General Primary. The General Election is November 3, 2026.

For additional information contact the Talbot County Board of Elections office at 706-665-8270.

Sharita Trice
Talbot County Elections Supervisor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Talbot Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on January 26, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Talbot County Board of Commissioners' Office located at 35 West Madison Street, Talbotton, GA. The hearing is to receive input on the following application:

Michael Herrington of 370 Maxwell Road, Talbotton, Georgia 31827 has filed an application for a zoning amendment requesting a conditional use of an R-1 (Residential) zone property. The property is located at 1401 Geneva Highway, Talbotton, Georgia 31827, Tax Parcels 005-12207 and 005-12217 TCO. Total acreage is 7.49. Intended use of the property is for a fuel center. An exact legal description of the property is on file at the Talbot County Board of Commissioners' Office.

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on February 2, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Talbot County Board of Commissioners' Office located at 35 West Madison Street, Talbotton, GA to receive input on this application.

All interested citizens are invited to attend these hearings.

Anyone with special needs relating to disability and who require special assistance at these meetings should contact Jona Gibson, County Clerk, (706) 665-3220 by January 21, 2026.

Note: Georgia Law requires that all parties who have made campaign contributions to any member of the Talbot County Board of Commissioners in excess of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) within two years immediately preceding the filing of this request and who desire to appear at the public hearing in opposition to the application, shall at least five (5) days prior to the public hearing, file a campaign contribution report at the Talbot County Board of Commissioners' Office.